

Many People, many tribes



These pictures are of Native Americans who have accepted the new culture of the US. How do we see this?

It is estimated that there were between 10 and 18 million Native Americans when the Europeans came to the Americas.

Today there are 4.5 million Native Americans living in the US only a minority live on reservations, the rest are in mainstream society.

We will look at what Native American life was like before, and reasons why their lives are different now.



Map of tribal territories. The boundaries did move but territorial boundaries were strongly defended. Native culture was agricultural or nomadic depending on territory. Buffalo hunted on the Great Dakota plains where many northern Europeans settled on farms.

Traditions



This is a male chief in traditional costume.



A017
Apache Woman

Apache woman in traditional costume. Notice the use of feathers and beads.



Agriculture



"Three sisters" were the basic diet of Native Americans.

The three sisters are corn, beans and squash. Native American grew these foods on farms.

Corn and beans were traditional foods farmed by Native Americans and formed their staple diet.



When the different tribes met to solve a conflict they smoked the “peace pipe” as a symbol of friendship.



Traditional homes for nomadic Native Americans were teepees or wigwams. They were easy to pack away and carry to the next seasons hunting grounds.

Women had traditional roles



Apache women cooking dinner.
Cooking, looking after children and guarding the fire.

Native American Dancing



There were many dances performed in Native American culture. Some are still performed whilst others have died due to changes in their culture. Dances include “Rain Dancing” for rain in dry weather, the “Dog Soldier” dance to protect the village women and children during battle, “Ghost Dancing” to make the white people go away, “Sun Dance” to celebrate the sun, as well as other ritual dances during healing ceremonies, wedding ceremonies and other tribal celebrations

Navaho Shaman



Indian medicine man healing someone. Native Americans would use natural and traditional medicines derived from plant and animal life. They would also perform magical rituals as medicine.

TOTEM POLE



Totem pole is often a work of art that can show important tribal events in the past. They can be purely decorative, and can also be a mark of a grave of an important ancestor.

Totems are not used by all the tribes but they are famous due to their size and appearance. We think of Native Americans when we see a totem pole.

BAGATTAWAY OR LACROSSE



Lacrosse was a very important sport for the whole north American native culture. It was used to solve conflicts, make young warriors strong, it was even used as a healing ceremony. Teams would sometimes consist of many hundreds, or even thousands, of players. Goals were quite often miles apart. Games could last as long as 3 days. Still an important sport in North America and Scotland. Now played with two teams and 12 players. Rules invented in mid 1800s.

Animals and Native Americans



Buffalo, bear and deer were hunted by nomadic tribes for food. Horses came to the Americas with the Europeans and escaped. When the Native Americans were introduced to the horse their culture changed. They fought on horseback, they traded goods further away, they had better communication. Pigs and Cows were also introduced by Europeans. They respected and some tribes even worshipped BIRDS, WOLVES, MOOSE,

EPIDEMICS AND DISEASES FROM EUROPE



CONFLICTS WITH SETTLERS



White Education



Native American children taken into white schools where they were educated by European standards. They were not allowed to speak their own language, they were not allowed to develop their own understanding of their tribal heritage. The tribal elders complained that their children were not being educated properly in order to retain the Indian heritage. The tribes had to send their children there because there reservations did not provide enough food for everybody and there was disease.

Native American Resistance



Culture and territory clash between Native Americans and US authorities. US encouraged European settlers to settle in Indian territory and protected with army. Many battles fought between army and Native Americans. The most famous is the "Little Big Horn", which General George Custer fought an alliance between several Sioux and Cheyenne tribes. Sitting Bull led and won the battle against the US. When Native Americans went into battle they painted their faces with war paint. Each warrior had a special way of painting so that it he was recognisable in battle. The painting and large head dresses made the warriors look aggressive.

WEAPONS



Way of life.

Many tribes and many different cultures. However, some things in common and some things became part of American culture as well as symbols for Native Americans.

Native Americans were hunters and farmers, industry was hand made crafts needed for survival. Traditional weapons were bow and arrows and tomahawks.

Clothes made of animal skin or woven cotton. Shoes of animal skin called moccasins

Indian War Gods



Famous war dance costumes



